

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

---

MARCH 2, 1893.—Ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3557.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3557) granting a pension to William O. Lyman, have considered the same and report:

The strongest possible argument that can be made in this case is contained in the documents hereto annexed. Beyond a question claimant is a neglected hero of the late war, and in justice and equity is entitled to pension.

BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS, NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, D. C., December 8, 1892.*

SIR: In furtherance of the kindly interest expressed by you in behalf of Mr. William O. Lyman, I beg to call your attention to the within letter of Capt. James Chester, Third United States Artillery, in which he includes Mr. Lyman among the first three volunteers of the war. His services in Fort Sumter were highly commendable. He was the direct cause of thirty-one of the employés of the Engineer Department returning to the fort after they had gone on board the Engineer Schooner to be landed in Charleston, S. C.

By all fairness and justice the civilian employés and workmen who remained in Sumter during the bombardment should have been put even temporarily upon the military roll and mustered into the military service. Had that simple act been done, instead of being overlooked, this poor man would not now be begging for recognition. He is one of the neglected heroes of the country.

I am personally well acquainted with Mr. W. O. Lyman, and know him to be a very worthy, industrious man, debilitated by age and incessant labor, broken down with rheumatism, and in every way unfitted to continue working for his living.

With high esteem, I am, very respectfully, yours,

B. P. LAMBERTON,  
*Commander, U. S. Navy.*

Gen. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY,  
*United States Senator.*

---

WASHINGTON BARRACKS, D. C., *December 3, 1892.*

DEAR SIR: William O. Lyman, now residing at No. 911 L street, this city, is and was well known to me before and during the bombardment of Sumter in April, 1861. He was then a civilian employé of the Engineer Department U. S. Army, but he cheerfully consented, at the solicitation of Capt. J. G. Foster, U. S. Engineers, to remain in Fort Sumter and share the fortunes of the beleaguered garrison.

I can certify that there was no more active man within the walls of Sumter than Mr. Lyman during our preparations for defense, and no better or braver soldier at the guns during the bombardment. He left the fort, as we all did, with nothing but the clothing on his back.

Mr. Lyman, Mr. John Swearer, now of Baltimore, and Mr. James Tweedale, now, I believe in Richmond, Va., were the first volunteers for the Union. They shared the hardships of the siege and the dangers of the bombardment, doing their duty as good and faithful soldiers, without the formality of enlistment, or muster in or the hope of pension or reward. One of the three—Swearer—was the only man dangerously wounded during the bombardment.

They were civilians and may have no legal claims on the Government on account of their services and sufferings, but they are none the less deserving on that account. I hold these men in grateful remembrance, and sincerely hope that the Government will recognize the justice of their claims upon its consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES CHESTER,  
*Captain, Third Artillery.*

Commander B. P. LAMBERTON, U. S. Navy.

[Extracts War of the Rebellion Records.]

Series 1, Vol. 1, pages 3-4.

They took possession to-night of Fort Moultrie, from which I withdrew the remainder of my men this afternoon, leaving the fort in charge of the overseer of the men employed by the Engineer Department.

\* \* \* \* \*  
ROBERT ANDERSON,  
*Major, First Artillery, Commanding.*

Pages 4, 5, same volume.

The fears of an immediate attack and disloyal feelings induced the greater portion of the engineer employés to leave at this time (December 26, 1860). But those that remained, fifty-five in number, reduced toward the end of the investment to thirty-five, were made very effective in preparing for a vigorous defense.

\* \* \* \* \*  
J. G. FOSTER,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

Page 18, same volume.

Of the forty-three workmen constituting the engineer force in the fort nearly all volunteered to serve as cannoneers, or to carry shot and cartridges to the guns.

\* \* \* \* \*  
J. G. FOSTER,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE THIRD AUDITOR,  
Washington, D. C., December 5, 1892.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 2d instant, which is herewith returned, I have the honor to inform you that the money accounts of Maj. John G. Foster, Engineer Corps, on file in this office, show that William O. Lyman was paid by that officer for services as overseer at Fort Sumter, S. C., during the months of March and April, 1861, at the rate of \$3 per diem.

Respectfully, yours,

W. H. HART,  
*Auditor.*

Commander B. P. LAMBERTON,  
*Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department.*

This is to certify that I have carefully examined William O. Lyman and find him about 66 years of age, suffering from debility and chronic rheumatism. His condition is such that he is unable to earn a proper living by manual labor, and in my opinion he will not be able to recover his health so far as to be able to do so.

Given this 1st day of March, 1893, Washington, D. C.

A. HEGER,  
*Colonel of U. S. Army, retired.*

Your committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out in lines 4 and 5 the words "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws," and in line 11 strike out the word "fifty" and substitute the words "twenty-five."

As amended, the passage of the bill is recommended.

○

